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ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Case Docket No. BLD990036US1

0036.0061

March 27, 2000

Express Mail Label No. EL414495165US

Dear Sir:

Transmitted herewith for filing is the patent application of

Inventor(s): D.K. Dittrich; L.M. Ernst; and R.S. Lucky

For: **METHOD, SYSTEM, PROGRAM, AND DATA STRUCTURE FOR PRODUCING A LOOK-UP TABLE  
TO ENHANCE PRINT QUALITY**

Enclosed are:

- ☒ 9 No. of Sheets of Drawings Sheet(s) of drawings ( ☒ informal) + 0 extra copies;  
35 pages of Application; 25 pages of specification, 1 page of abstract  
☒ An assignment of the invention to International Business Machines Corporation. ( ☐ Will follow.)  
☐ An associate power of attorney.  
☐ A verified statement to establish small entity status under 37 CFR 1.9 and 1.27.  
☒ Declaration and Power of Attorney. ( ☐ Will follow.)  
☐ Certified copy of Patent Application No. filed from which priority is claimed under 35 U.S.C. §119.  
☐ IDS enclosed. ☐ with references.

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09/53857  
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CALCULATION OF FEES							
ITEM		NO. OF CLAIMS FILED MINUS BASE*		NO. OF CLAIMS OVER BASE	X SM/LG ENTITY FEE	\$ AMOUNT	\$ FEE
A	TOTAL CLAIMS FEE	39	- 20* =	19	X \$9 or \$18	\$342	
B	INDEPENDENT CLAIMS FEE**	4	- 3* =	1	X \$39 or \$78	\$78	
C	SUBTOTAL - ADDITIONAL CLAIMS FEE (ADD FINAL COLUMN IN LINES A + B)						420
D	MULTIPLE-DEPENDENT CLAIMS FEE						

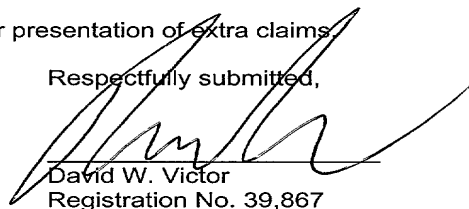
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☐ Any filing fees under 37 CFR 1.16 for presentation of extra claims.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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PATENT  
BLD990036US1  
0036.0061

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application for

Examiner: --

D.K. Dittrich

, L.M. Ernst

Art Unit: --

and R.S. Lucky

Serial No.: --

Filed: March 27, 2000

For: **METHOD, SYSTEM,**

**PROGRAM, AND DATA STRUCTURE**

**FOR PRODUCING A LOOK-UP TABLE**

**TO ENHANCE PRINT QUALITY**

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

Assistant Commissioner of Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

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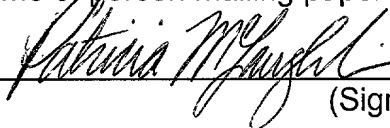
I hereby certify that patent application papers, including specification, claims and 9 sheets of informal drawings are being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Assistant Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231.

March 27, 2000

(Date of Deposit)

Patricia McLaughlin

(Name of person mailing paper or fee)



(Signature)

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METHOD, SYSTEM, PROGRAM, AND DATA STRUCTURE  
FOR PRODUCING A LOOK-UP TABLE TO ENHANCE PRINT QUALITY

Cross-Reference to Related Applications

5 This application is related to the following co-pending and commonly-assigned patent applications, all of which are filed on the same date herewith, and all of which are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety:

"Method, System, And Program For Using Look-up Tables to Filter Raster Data", by Richard S. Lucky, Larry M. Ernst, and Danielle K. Dittrich, having attorney docket no. BLD990048US1; and  
10 "Method, System, And Program For Reducing Toner Usage in Print Output", by Larry M. Ernst, Danielle K. Dittrich, and Richard S. Lucky, having attorney docket no. BLD990050US1.

15 BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to a method, system and program for improving print quality enhancement and, in particular, generating a look-up table that enhances print quality.

20

2. Description of the Related Art

To print an image, a print engine processor, referred to herein as a raster image processor, converts the image in a page description language or vector graphics format to a bit mapped image indicating a value to print at each pixel of the image.

25 Each bit representing a pixel that is "on" is converted to an electronic pulse. The electronic pulses generated from the raster pel data at which to deposit toner turns the laser beam on to positively charge the surface of a rotating drum, which is an organic photo-conducting cartridge (OPC), that has a coating capable of holding an electrostatic charge. The laser beam turns on and off to beam charges at pixel areas

on a scan line across the drum that will ultimately represent the output image. After the laser beam charges all pels on the scan line indicated in the raster data, the drum rotates so the laser beam can place charges on the next scan line. The drum with the electrostatic positive charges then passes over negatively charged toner. The

5 negatively charged toner is then attracted to the positive charged areas of the drum that form the image. The paper, which is negatively charged, passes over the roller drum and attracts the toner as the areas of the roller drum with the toner are positively charged to transfer the toner forming the image from the roller drum to the paper.

10 Many laser printers may filter the bit map images using a look-up table to alter the pulses generated for each pixel to accomplish a certain filtering result. For instance, filters can be used to provide an economy mode where toner is reduced, remove jagged edges, improve print quality or reduce the density of images. Typically, the laser printer will gather an area of data and replace either one or all the  
15 pulse values for the pixels based on the gathered area of pixel data matching a value in the look-up table. Print quality enhancement look-up tables adjust input pels based on the values in surrounding pels to provide anti-aliasing, boldness control, and remove jagged edges.

Notwithstanding current print quality enhancement algorithms for generating  
20 values in a look-up table, there is a need for an improved methodology for generating look-up tables to adjust input pel values to enhance print quality.

### SUMMARY OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

To overcome the limitations in the prior art described above, preferred  
25 embodiments disclose a method, system, program, and data structure for generating a table for enhancing the print quality of input raster pel data. An output value is generated for different patterns of pel data. Each output value indicates a sub-pulse width power to charge a sub-pel region within a pel and position information

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In further embodiments, the position information is used to cluster sub-pel regions next to each other in adjacent pels and justify an edge pel toward a black filled region adjacent to the edge pel.

Yet further, the output value is generated for the subject black pel affecting  
10 the surrounding pels. The surrounding pels comprise multiple regions of pels. There  
is a separate weight for each region that is used to adjust the base sub-pulse width  
power of the subject black pel to produce the output value.

Preferred embodiments encode a look-up table (LUT) with output values for a subject black pel in order to enhance print quality by adjusting the subject pel based on the pattern of the surrounding pels. The output values in the LUT provide sub-pulse widths used to generate sub-regions within a pel. Preferred embodiments provide position information to position the sub-pel regions within the pel to improve print quality and to reduce electromagnetic radiation. Further, preferred embodiments determine the output values for the subject pel by taking into account the affect of the subject black pel on surrounding pels.

Preferred embodiments provide an equation to use to generate weights that reflect the affect of a center black pel on surrounding regions of pels, such that the solution of the weights in the equation seeks to adjust black pels to achieve a desired print quality enhancement output goal, such as a desired halftone density curve.

25 These weights are then used to adjust output values for subject black center pels to accomplish the print quality enhancement output goal.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Referring now to the drawings in which like reference numbers represent corresponding parts throughout:

FIG. 1 illustrates a printing computing environment in which preferred  
5 embodiments of the present invention are implemented;

FIG. 2 illustrates a window of pel data accessed for filtering operations in accordance with preferred embodiments of the present invention;

FIG. 3 illustrates logic to generate position information for sub-pel regions produced by the output pulse widths in the print quality enhancement (PQE) look-up  
10 table (LUT) in accordance with preferred embodiments of the present invention;

FIG. 4 illustrates an example of how sub-pulse regions are aligned according to the position information in the PQE table in accordance with preferred embodiments of the present invention;

FIG. 5 illustrates how the data window of pels is divided into regions affected  
15 by a black center pel in accordance with preferred embodiments of the present invention;

FIG. 6 illustrates logic to generate output pulse width values and position information in a PQE LUT for each possible pattern of pels in the window in accordance with preferred embodiments of the present invention;

FIG. 7 illustrates the components used to determine the weights used to adjust  
20 the base power value to produce print quality enhanced output values in accordance with preferred embodiments of the present invention;

FIG. 8 illustrates a reproduction of greyscale levels in a manner known in the art;

FIG. 9 illustrates the equation that is solved to calculate the weights used to  
25 adjust the base power level for black in accordance with preferred embodiments of the present invention; and

FIG. 10 illustrates logic to determine the functions, arrays, input and output values in the equation in FIG. 9 that is solved to determine the weights that are used

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to adjust the base power levels in accordance with preferred embodiments of the present invention.

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

5 In the following description, reference is made to the accompanying drawings which form a part hereof and which illustrate several embodiments of the present invention. It is understood that other embodiments may be utilized and structural and operational changes may be made without departing from the scope of the present invention.

10

#### Using Multiple Look-Up Tables to Filter an Image

FIG. 1 illustrates a printing computing environment in which preferred  
embodiments are implemented. Control logic 4 comprises a programmable chip, such  
as a field programmable gate array (FPGA) chip, which includes logic to perform the  
15 preferred embodiment pel filtering operations. The raster processor 6 generates raster  
data 8 from vector graphics or page description language commands. The raster data  
8 comprises scan lines of pels, where each pel has an "on" or "off" value and location  
information of the pel in the scan line. The control logic 4 accesses scan lines of  
raster data 8 and transfers the pels to a scan static random access memory (SRAM)  
20 10. The control logic 4 will access data from the scan SRAM 10 and compare the  
accessed pel data with values in one of a selected look-up table (LUT) 14a, b, c, d  
that were previously loaded in a LUT SRAM 12. The control logic 4 is encoded with  
logic to compare accessed pel data with the LUT 14a, b, c or d to determine an output  
value for input pel data.

25 In the example of FIG. 1, the control logic 4 uses the LUTs 14a, b, c, d to  
accomplish a particular type of filter operation, e.g., print quality enhancement of  
text, images or double dot data, or toner reduction. Print quality enhancement may  
involve edge smoothing, compensating for density, etc.

The LUT tables 14a, b, c, d specify how to modify a pel based on the values of the surrounding pels. A pel is modified by modifying its pulse width. The modified or unmodified pel data, i.e., pulse width, is then transferred directly from one selected LUT 14a, b, c, or d to the pulse width modulator (PWM) 18 to generate an electronic pulse, i.e., voltage, which controls the laser beam 20 to electrically charge the area of the roller corresponding to the pel as part of the printing process. In preferred embodiments, the PWM 18 is capable of generating sixty-four different pulse widths for a pel having a value of "on".

FIG. 2 illustrates how scan line raster data is loaded into the scan SRAM 10 and accessed by the control logic 4. In FIG. 2, each block represents a pel, a white block represents buffered pel data and a darkened block represents one pel the control logic 4 is accessing in a window 30 of pels that will be considered during the filter operation. In preferred embodiments, the control logic 4 accesses a diamond shaped group of adjacent pels 30 from five different scan lines 34, 36, 38, 40, 42 that surround a center pel 32. In preferred embodiments, one or more of the LUTs 14a, b, c or d include an output value for each possible combination of values for the window 30. In the example of FIG. 2, this would require the LUTs 14a, b, c, d to provide  $2^{13}$  possible output values as there are  $2^{13}$  different possible arrangements of the thirteen pels in the window 30. Thus, the LUTs 14a, b, c, d specify an output value for each unique combination of the pels in the window 30. The output value provides an adjusted pulse width for the center pel 32 in the window 30. The purpose of the window is to provide an adjusted pulse for the center pel 32 based on the surrounding pels that have the most affect on the center pel 32.

In preferred embodiments, the window 30 is shaped as a diamond to approximate the circular shape of a charge the laser creates on the roller and the shape in which toner is applied to a pel. The toner applied to a pel may extend out in a circular range and affect other pels. Thus, based on the value of the pels surrounding the center pel 32, the LUTs 14a, b, c, d provide an adjusted pulse width



# THE BOSTON HERALD

The preferred embodiment diamond shaped window 30 provides an improved data sampling over current windows used in filtering pels that are typically rectangular or square shaped, because the diamond shape approximates the actual shape of the laser charge imprint. Thus, the pels most affected by the pulse used to produce the center pel 32 are in the circular diamond shaped window 30. Because, in preferred embodiments, the LUTs provide an output value for every possible combination of pels in the window, minimizing the number of pels in the window by using a diamond shaped window as opposed to a rectangular shape, which includes a greater area of pels, makes it feasible for the LUTs 14a, b, c, d to provide one output value for every possible combination of pels in the window 30. Further, the diamond

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having attorney docket no. BLD990048US1 and which was incorporated by reference above, provides further details of the process of switching the LUTs 14a, b, c, d when processing the pels in a scan line.

In preferred embodiments, because all the LUT tables 14a, b, c, d are  
5 accessible from the same high speed memory, they control logic 4 may switch LUTs 14a, b, c, d within the pel frequency, thereby allowing the control logic 4 to switch LUTs 14a, b, c, d, and hence filtering operations, between adjacent pels. Further, the control logic 4 may also switch between the end of one page and the beginning of another. In preferred embodiments, the control logic 4 only calibrates the pulse width  
10 modulator (PWM) 18 at start-up. No calibrations are performed when switching between LUTs 14a, b, c, d, as such switching, in preferred embodiments, occurs within the pel frequency, thereby allowing the control logic 4 to switch LUTs 14a, b, c, d between pels without negatively affecting printer throughput.

15 Algorithm for Generating Print Quality Enhancement LUTs

As discussed, one of the LUTs 14a, b, c or d is used to enhance the print quality. The PQE LUT, as well as the other LUTs 14a, b, c, d, are generated at the factory using a computer separate from the printer into which the LUTs will be loaded. This computer would include a LUT generator program, shown as element  
20 302 in FIG. 7 discussed below, to encode the PQE LUT with an output sub-pulse width value for each possible pattern of surrounding pels in the diamond shaped window 30. Further, each output value in the PQE LUT includes two components, a position component and a power level, i.e., sub-pulse width, component. In preferred  
25 embodiments, the power level component comprises a sub-pulse width that is a percentage of the full power value, i.e., a sub-pulse width that produces a sub-pel region where toner is attracted within the pel. The position component of the PQE LUT output value indicates the relative position in the pel of the sub-pel region produced by the power value component. This relative position may be right, centered or left justified within the pel.

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The purpose of clustering adjacent pels is to avoid the problem of constantly having to switch the laser beam on and off in each pel when generating sub-pel regions within each pel. Switching the laser beam on and off increases electromagnetic radiation (EMI) and pollution. In many countries, printers must meet

certain EMI pollution standards. In fact, EMI pollution problems have made the use of sub-pulse width modulation, where the laser is turned on and off within each pel, undesirable. This problem is further discussed in the co-pending patent application entitled "Method, System, And Program For Reducing Toner Usage in Print Output",  
5 having attorney docket no. BLD990050US1, which was incorporated herein by reference above.

Preferred embodiments help reduce EMI pollution by aligning the sub-pulse region in one pel next to the sub pel region in one adjacent pel. With this alignment, the laser beam does not have to be turned off when generating the sub-pulse width in  
10 the adjacent pels as the laser may remain on when generating the sub-pulse regions in the adjacent pels. Thus, the laser turns on to generate the sub-pulse region right justified in pel 156 and remains on to generate the sub-pel region left justified in pel 158. The logic of FIG. 3, thus, produces an alignment that minimizes the number of times the laser must be turned off when generating sub-pulse regions within pels.

15 The logic of FIG. 3 further center aligns the pel when the center pel is in the center of an all black region, i.e., pattern 11111.

In addition to determining the alignment of the sub-pel region for each output value of the PQE LUT, the LUT generator program must also produce the power levels or sub-pulse width modulation levels, for each value. If the pel being modified  
20 is white, then the laser power is zero. Otherwise, the base laser power for black pels is set at some level less than full power. In determining the appropriate amount of pulse width, i.e., laser power, the LUT generator program adds or subtracts weights to a base power level value by considering the surrounding pels and the affect of the center pel 32 on the surrounding pels in the data window 30.

25 The LUT generator program uses different weights for different regions of the surrounding pels in window 30. FIG. 5 illustrates three regions A, B, and C including the surrounding pels of the window 30. Region A includes the pels, labeled as "A", that immediately surround the center pel 32 in the first order horizontal and vertical directions. Region B includes pels in the first order diagonal direction from the center

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pel, labeled as "B", and Region C includes the second order pels in the horizontal and vertical directions. The pels in Region A are most affected by the black center pel 32 as the center of Region A pels are closer to the center pel 32 than the center of Region B pels which are at a diagonal position from the center pel 32. Region C pels are least affected by the black center pel 32. Thus, FIG. 5 illustrates different regions of the black center pel 32 effect on surrounding pels.

The arrangement of FIG. 5 assumes that the center pel has an equal effect on the pels within equidistant regions, with the effect lessening as the regions move outward from the center pel. This assumption requires that the laser produces a spot on the photoconductor roller that has a symmetrical Gaussian profile. However, if the spot profile produced by the laser was asymmetrical, then the affect of the center pel 32 on pels within a region A, B or C would be different.

To determine the laser power value for the center pel 32 based on the values of the surrounding pel in each possible pattern for the window 30, the LUT generator program would start with a base power level for the black center pel 32, e.g., 65% of full power, and then adjust this base power level with a region weight. There is a weight for each Region A, B, C and for each color value W (white) or K (black) that reflects the affect a black center pel 32 has on each pel within a Region A, B, C, respectively. Different weights are provided for black or white surrounding pels because the black center pel 32 has a greater visual affect on white surrounding pels. The visual effect of the center pel "spilling" over into the surrounding pels is greater for white surrounding pels that have no color value.

To enhance print quality and limit the extent to which the center pel will adversely affect white surrounding pels, the base power level is reduced by the weight for each surrounding white pel. Reducing the base power level for surrounding white pels reduces the extent to which the black center pel "spills" over into the white surrounding pel. To the extent the surrounding pels are black, print quality is enhanced by ensuring that there is no white space between adjacent black pels. For this reason, the base power level is increased by the weight for each surrounding

black pel. The weight used depends upon the region, such that a region closer to the black center pel will have a greater weight, i.e., is more affected by the black center pel, than regions further away from the black center pel.

Below are the six weights that indicate the effect of a black center pel on a pel within a particular region, depending on whether the pel in the region is black or white, and that are used to adjust the base power level to produce the output value.

$W_{AK}$  - is weight for black pels in Region A.  
 $W_{AW}$  - is weight for white pels in Region A.  
 $W_{BK}$  - is weight for black pels in Region B.  
 $W_{BW}$  - is weight for white pels in Region B.  
 $W_{CK}$  - is weight for black pels in Region C.  
 $W_{CW}$  - is weight for white pels in Region C.

FIG. 6 illustrates logic in the LUT generator program to produce the output value for each pattern of pels in window 30 using the above weights indicating the affect on black and white pels in each region and the position encoding logic of FIG. 3. Control begins at block 200 with the LUT generator program beginning a routine to generate an output value for each possible pattern of pels in window 30. For each possible pattern of pels in the window, the LUT generator performs a loop at blocks 202 through 224. At block 204, the LUT generator program executes the logic in FIG. 3 to determine the position to justify the sub-pel region within the pel.

The LUT generator program performs steps 206 through 220 to determine the output power level in the LUT to provide for the center pel 32. At block 206, the LUT generator sets the power level to the base power level that is a percentage of the full power level, such as 65%. The LUT generator program performs a loop at blocks 208 through 220 for each Region  $i$ , where  $i$  is equal to A, B or C. The LUT generator program then considers each pel in Region  $i$  at blocks 210 through 218. For each pel in Region  $i$ , the LUT generator program adds (at block 214) the black weight for the region,  $W_{iK}$ , to the power level. Otherwise, the white weight for the region,  $W_{iW}$ , is added (at block 216).

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100	2101	2102	2103	2104	2105	2106	2107	2108	2109	2110	2111	2112	2113	2114	2115	2116	2117	2118	2119	2120	2121	2122	2123	2124	2125	2126	2127	2128	2129	2130	2131	2132	2133	2134	2135	2136	2137	2138	2139	2140	2141	2142	2143	2144	2145	2146	2147	2148	2149	2150	2151	2152	2153	2154	2155	2156	2157	2158	2159	2160	2161	2162	2163	2164	2165	2166	2167	2168	2169	2170	2171	2172	2173	2174	2175	2176	2177	2178	2179	2180	2181	2182	2183	2184	2185	2186	2187	2188	2189	2190	2191	2192	2193	2194	2195	2196	2197	2198	2199	2200	2201	2202	2203	2204	2205	2206	2207	2208	2209	2210	2211	2212	2213	2214	2215	2216	2217	2218	2219	2220	2221	2222	2223	2224	2225	2226	2227	2228	2229	2230	2231	2232	2233	2234	2235	2236	2237	2238	2239	2240	2241	2242	2243	2244	2245	2246	2247	2248	2249	2250	2251	2252	2253	2254	2255	2256	2257	2258	2259	2260	2261	2262	2263	2264	2265	2266	2267	2268	2269	2270	2271	2272	2273	2274	2275	2276	2277	2278	2279	2280	2281	2282	2283	2284	2285	2286	2287	2288	2289	2290	2291	2292	2293	2294	2295	2296	2297	2298	2299	2300	2301	2302	2303	2304	2305	2306	2307	2308	2309	2310	2311	2312	2313	2314	2315	2316	2317	2318	2319	2320	2321	2322	2323	2324	2325	2326	2327	2328	2329	2330	2331	2332	2333	2334	2335	2336	2337	2338	2339	2340	2341	2342	2343	2344	2345	2346	2347	2348	2349	2350	2351	2352	2353	2354	2355	2356	2357	2358	2359	2360	2361	2362	2363	2364	2365	2366	2367	2368	2369	2370	2371	2372	2373	2374	2375	2376	2377	2378	2379	2380	2381	2382	2383	2384	2385	2386	2387	2388	2389	2390	2391	2392	2393	2394	2395	2396	2397	2398	2399	2400	2401	2402	2403	2404	2405	2406	2407	2408	2409	2410	2411	2412	2413	2414	2415	2416	2417	2418	2419	2420	2421	2422	2423	2424	2425	2426	2427	2428	2429	2430	2431	2432	2433	2434	2435	2436	2437	2438	2439	2440	2441	2442	2443	2444	2445	2446	2447	2448	2449	2450	2451	2
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5 To generate the weights, the LUT generator program will mathematically calculate the weights from the characteristics of the printer using interpolation, such as non-linear least squares interpolation. When applied, the weights will modify the shape of the base power level to generate output values that produce a desired output curve. In preferred embodiments, the desired output curve expresses a desired  
10 density at each greyscale level. The weights are determined such that they adjust the base power level based on the surrounding pel values to produce the desired output density in a manner that enhances print quality.

FIG. 7 illustrates a preferred embodiment of the workflow used to determine the weights that are used in FIG. 6 to generate the values in the PQE LUT. A computer 300 includes the LUT generator program 302, discussed above, that uses the halftone algorithm 304 in the printer 306 to produce greyscale images 308a, b ... n that reproduce each of the 256 greyscale levels. The LUT generator program 302 includes the logic of FIGs. 3 and 6, discussed above. An example of a greyscale image is shown in FIG. 8. The LUT generator program 302 would produce greyscale images at different power levels for black. The greyscale patterns between black and white would be determined from the power level set for black. For instance, to provide the greatest degree of accuracy, the LUT generator program 302 can generate a greyscale image for each possible power level. For instance, if the pulse width modulator can generate power levels 1/64 increments of the full power level, then the LUT generator program 302 can generate up to 64 greyscale images, the maximum number of power level increments. Alternatively, the LUT generator program 302 can generate greyscale images 308a, b ... n at fewer power level intervals, including the base power level. The greyscale images 308a, b ... n would then be scanned by a densitometer 310 to measure the density at each greyscale level for each greyscale



image 308a, b ... n and feed the measured density into the LUT generator program 302 to use in modeling the toner reproduction curve to calculate the weights indicating the affect of a center pel on black and white pels in the Regions A, B, C.

Below is a high level view of the print quality enhancement equation (1) the LUT generator program 302 solves to determine the weights. Equation (1) provides a model of the affect of the weights on an Input Array comprising the 256 levels of the greyscale image produced with the base power level for black, e.g., 65%. The Output Array comprises the desired density at each greyscale level for the optimal print output result. The Input Array is adjusted using the weights to reach the desired Output Array. Model Equation (1) provides an overview of the print model equation used to interpolate the value of the weights to fit the input data to print to the desired output for each level of greyscale.

$$\text{Output Array} = \text{Input Array} + [\text{Array of Affect of Weights on Surrounding Pels in Regions A, B, C}] + [\text{Array of Affect of Weights on Center Pel}] \quad (1)$$

Model (1) shows that the desired Output Array is a function of the Input Array at the base power level, i.e., base pulse width. An array, including an element for each greyscale level, comprising the affects of the added weights to the surrounding pels in Regions A, B, C is added to the Input Array to add the affect of the weights on the surrounding regions. An array of the affect of the weights on the center pel for each greyscale level is added to include the effect of the weights on the surrounding pels.

The affect of the weights in Regions A, B, C can be calculated from the density of the pels in the Regions A, B, C after adjusting the center pel with the weights minus the density of the pels in Regions A, B, C as a result of the pels themselves. Likewise, the affect of the weights on the center pel can be calculated from the density of the center pel after adjusting the center pel with the weights minus the density of the center pel before the weights were applied. In this way, the density affect caused by the weights on the Regions A, B, C and center pels are determined

for each greyscale level and used to adjust the Input Array to reach the desired Output Array.

The model equation may be expressed as equation 350 shown in FIG. 9, which is divided into three parts. The functions  $fA(x)$ ,  $fB(x)$ , and  $fC(x)$  define the density added to each region A, B, C, respectively, for a given power level  $x$ . Array<sub>*iW*</sub> represents the percentage of white pels in Region  $i$  for each greyscale level, thus comprising a 256 element array and Array<sub>*iK*</sub> represents the percentage of black pels in Region  $i$  for each greyscale level, thus comprising a 256 element array. The starting\_value is the base power level of a black pel before any adjustments are made, expressed as a percentage of the full power level, e.g., 65%.

Thus, Part I of the equation represents the density of the pels in the Regions A, B, C after adjusting the center pel with the weights, which are constants, for each greyscale level. Part II of the equation represents the density resulting from the pels in the Regions A, B, C. Part II is subtracted from Part I to determine the density difference produced in the surrounding Regions A, B, C from the adjustments to the center pel. Part III comprises the density of the center pel as adjusted with the weights minus the density without the weights, producing the affect of the weights in the center region. Part III is added to add the effect of the weights on the center pel. The result of Parts I, II, and III is the affect of the weights on the center pel and surrounding Regions A, B, C for each greyscale level, which is then applied to the Input Array to produce the desired output Array for each greyscale level.

FIG. 10 illustrates logic implemented in the LUT generator program 302 to solve the equation 350 and generate the six weight constants. After determining the weights for each region and color (black or white), the LUT generator program 302 would then execute the logic of FIG. 6 to produce the values in the PQE LUT from the weights. Control begins at block 400 with the LUT generator program 302 being invoked to solve the weights for the equation 350 (FIG. 9). The LUT generator program 302 would print (at block 402) greyscale images 308a, b ... n showing all halftone levels, such as shown in FIG. 7, at different power level intervals, including

the base power level. The densities of each greyscale level may be measured using a densitometer 310 and then inputted (at block 404) into the LUT generator program 302 through an interface on the computer 300. For instance, a human operator may feed the greyscale images 308a, b ... n into the densitometer 310 and then

- 5 electronically transfer or manually enter the densities measured at each greyscale level to the computer 300.

The LUT generator program 302 further determines (at block 406) the percentage of the laser pulse in the center region (Region 0) and Regions A, B, C. This determination is made by superimposing the symmetrical Gaussian pulse of the  
10 laser over the window 30 of data to determine which percent of the laser power directed toward the center pel falls within Regions A, B, C. The Gaussian pulse has a diameter equal to the spot size of the laser for the printer 306 being tested. The power that falls in each Region 0, A, B, C may be determined by equation (2) below which relates the laser power ( $P$ ) to the distance from the center of the pel ( $r$ ) for a  
15 Gaussian distribution.

$$P = e^{-\left(\frac{r}{a}\right)^2} \quad (2)$$

- The variable "a" in equation (2) is a proportionality constant. The power level ( $P$ ) at each region can be determined by using the radius of the edge of the region  
20 from the center pel. This equation (2) may, thus, be used to determine the percentage of laser power that falls into each Region 0, A, B, C, which are at different radius ( $r$ ) positions from the center pel. The constant  $a$  of equation (2) would take into account the particular characteristics of the printer 304 laser and is used in the equation (2), and can be initially solved for a given relative power level and radius.  
25 For instance, if the printer produces a power level ( $P$ ) of 50% of maximum power ( $P$ ) when the radius is  $45.07\mu\text{m}$  from the center of the pulse, then the constant  $a$  can be calculated as shown in equation (3) below:

$$a = \frac{r}{\sqrt{-\ln(P)}} = \frac{45.07}{\sqrt{-\ln(5)}} = 54.135\mu m \quad (3)$$

For a 600 dots per inch (dpi) printer, the pel width is equal to  $42.33\mu m$ . If the constant  $a$  is normalized to pels, then  $a$  is equal to 1.28. Now the radius ( $r$ ) can be expressed as a number of pels from the center. This calculated  $a$  constant, which  
5 would be based on the printer characteristics, can then be used to determine the power distribution in the different regions. The power levels ( $P$ ) can now be calculated for Regions A, B, C based on their radius ( $r$ ) in pels from the center of the center pel. In this way, the constant  $a$ , incorporates the characteristics of the printer. Thus, the power level ( $P$ ) calculated for the different regions are printer specific and  
10 based on the characteristics of the printer, which were used to determine the pel factor  $a$ .

After calculating the percentage of laser pulse that falls into each Region A, B, C, which is unique to the printer and laser profile of the printer, the LUT generator program 302 then performs the loop at blocks 408 to 416 to calculate the density  
15 functions  $f_0, f_A, f_B$ , and  $f_C$  for each Region 0, A, B, C. Each function defines the density the weight adjustments add to a Region 0, A, B, C based on an input power level.

For each Region  $i$ , where  $i$  is 0, A, B, C, the LUT generator program 302 determines (at block 410) the greyscale level corresponding to the percentage of pulse  
20 radiating into Region  $i$ . In alternative embodiments, an operator may determine the gray scale level corresponding to the percentage of pulse radiating into Region  $i$ , which is then used by the LUT generator 302 to generate the function used to solve the equation. Thus, if the laser pulse directed toward the center pel spilling over into Region A comprises 10% of the pulse, then the corresponding greyscale level would  
25 be  $255 - 10\% * 255 (=25.5)$ , which approximates level 229, where level 255 is white and 0 is black. In alternative embodiments, a operator may manually determine and enter the gray scale level to use and then use a separate program to generate the function.

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5 308a, b ... n the LUT generator program 302 uses (at block 414) mathematical interpolation to model a density function  $f_i$  for Region  $i$ , which produces density as a function of power level for the Region  $i$ . Steps 410-414 are repeated for each Region 0, A, B, C to determine the density functions  $f_0, f_A, f_B, f_C$ .

Parameter	Unit	Value	Standard Error	95% CI	P-value
Intercept		1.00	0.00	1.00	0.00
Age	Year	0.02	0.01	-0.01, 0.05	0.10
Gender		0.05	0.02	-0.01, 0.11	0.08
Education	Year	0.01	0.01	-0.01, 0.03	0.45
Income	1000 USD	0.01	0.01	-0.01, 0.03	0.45
Health status		0.05	0.02	-0.01, 0.11	0.08
Physical activity	Week	0.01	0.01	-0.01, 0.03	0.45
Stress		0.05	0.02	-0.01, 0.11	0.08
Sleep	Hour	0.01	0.01	-0.01, 0.03	0.45
Diet		0.05	0.02	-0.01, 0.11	0.08
Alcohol	100g	0.01	0.01	-0.01, 0.03	0.45
Smoking		0.05	0.02	-0.01, 0.11	0.08
Family size		0.05	0.02	-0.01, 0.11	0.08
Work status		0.05	0.02	-0.01, 0.11	0.08
Marital status		0.05	0.02	-0.01, 0.11	0.08
Religion		0.05	0.02	-0.01, 0.11	0.08
Political views		0.05	0.02	-0.01, 0.11	0.08
Travel		0.05	0.02	-0.01, 0.11	0.08
Pets		0.05	0.02	-0.01, 0.11	0.08
Volunteering		0.05	0.02	-0.01, 0.11	0.08
Charitable giving		0.05	0.02	-0.01, 0.11	0.08
Community involvement		0.05	0.02	-0.01, 0.11	0.08
Neighborhood safety		0.05	0.02	-0.01, 0.11	0.08
Local government		0.05	0.02	-0.01, 0.11	0.08
Local economy		0.05	0.02	-0.01, 0.11	0.08
Local culture		0.05	0.02	-0.01, 0.11	0.08
Local history		0.05	0.02	-0.01, 0.11	0.08
Local environment		0.05	0.02	-0.01, 0.11	0.08
Local infrastructure		0.05	0.02	-0.01, 0.11	0.08
Local services		0.05	0.02	-0.01, 0.11	0.08
Local education		0.05	0.02	-0.01, 0.11	0.08
Local healthcare		0.05	0.02	-0.01, 0.11	0.08
Local transportation		0.05	0.02	-0.01, 0.11	0.08
Local recreation		0.05	0.02	-0.01, 0.11	0.08
Local industry		0.05	0.02	-0.01, 0.11	0.08
Local agriculture		0.05	0.02	-0.01, 0.11	0.08
Local commerce		0.05	0.02	-0.01, 0.11	0.08
Local industry		0.05	0.02	-0.01, 0.11	0.08
Local agriculture		0.05	0.02	-0.01, 0.11	0.08
Local commerce		0.05	0.02	-0.01, 0.11	0.08
Local industry		0.05	0.02	-0.01, 0.11	0.08
Local agriculture		0.05	0.02	-0.01, 0.11	0.08
Local commerce		0.05	0.02	-0.01, 0.11	0.08
Local industry		0.05	0.02	-0.01, 0.11	0.08
Local agriculture		0.05	0.02	-0.01, 0.11	0.08
Local commerce		0.05	0.02	-0.01, 0.11	0.08
Local industry		0.05	0.02	-0.01, 0.11	0.08
Local agriculture		0.05	0.02	-0.01, 0.11	0.08
Local commerce		0.05	0.02	-0.01, 0.11	0.08
Local industry		0.05	0.02	-0.01, 0.11	0.08
Local agriculture		0.05	0.02	-0.01, 0.11	0.08
Local commerce		0.05	0.02	-0.01, 0.11	0.08
Local industry		0.05	0.02	-0.01, 0.11	0.08
Local agriculture		0.05	0.02	-0.01, 0.11	0.08
Local commerce		0.05	0.02	-0.01, 0.11	0.08
Local industry		0.05	0.02	-0.01, 0.11	0.08
Local agriculture		0.05	0.02	-0.01, 0.11	0.08
Local commerce		0.05	0.02	-0.01, 0.11	0.08
Local industry		0.05	0.02	-0.01, 0.11	0.08
Local agriculture		0.05	0.02	-0.01, 0.11	0.08
Local commerce		0.05	0.02	-0.01, 0.11	0.08

By solving the equation 350 in FIG. 9 to produce the constants for the different weights, the LUT generator program 302 incorporates both the characteristics of the printer, which are defined by the Gaussian power distribution

that fits the halftone curve expressed in the Output Array. In this way, print quality is enhanced by adjusting the power levels based on the affect on surrounding pels to achieve the desired density for the halftone algorithm 306 and further taking into account the printer characteristics, such as the Gaussian profile of the laser pulse.

Print quality is enhanced by adjusting the power level for each pel, which  
10 adjusts the overall pattern density, to fit a desired halftone density curve. Some of the  
noticeable enhancements include reduction in over bolding, improving stroke width  
balance, improving image quality without the loss of data, monotonic tone  
reproduction as the print output is adjusted toward the desired halftone reproduction  
curve.

After generating the PQE LUT using the algorithms of FIGs. 6 and 10, further adjustments to the power level output values in the PQE LUT may be manually made for special cases. For instance, if the pel is within a checkerboard pattern, isolated, in an all black region, part of a 1 or 2 pel diagonal, horizontal, and vertical black lines, it has been found desirable to manually modify the output power levels. Such modifications are printer specific and based on human observation of the output in such cases and manual "hit-and-miss" efforts. In this way, the output value in certain "special cases" may be further modified by the operator to produce the desired effect and further enhance print quality.

As discussed, the PQE LUT provides both position and power level data for  
25 each pattern of pels. Preferred embodiments provide a methodology for print quality  
enhancement that considers the characteristics of the printer laser beam, the halftone  
algorithm, and a desired halftone density curve to adjust the power levels for given  
input patterns. Further, the preferred embodiments use position information to align

Moreover, the preferred embodiment technique is not printer specific, and may be applied to any laser printer and any halftone algorithm, as the equation is modeled on the laser pulse profile and halftone algorithm.

The preferred embodiments may be implemented as a method, system or article of manufacture using standard programming and/or engineering techniques to produce software, firmware, hardware, or any combination thereof. The term "article of manufacture" (or alternatively, "computer program product") as used herein is intended to encompass one or more computer programs and/or data files accessible from one or more computer-readable devices, carriers, or media, such as magnetic storage media, "floppy disk," CD-ROM, optical disks, holographic units, volatile or non-volatile electronic memory, a file server providing access to the programs via a network transmission line, wireless transmission media, signals propagating through space, etc. Of course, those skilled in the art will recognize many modifications may be made to this configuration without departing from the scope of the present invention.

In preferred embodiments a densitometer separate from the printer is used to measure the density of greyscale images. In alternative embodiments, the densitometer components may be included within the printer.

In preferred embodiments, the greyscale images used to generate the density functions were printed from a single printer. In further embodiments, multiple printers of the same model, including the same laser profile and halftone algorithm, may be used to print different copies of the greyscale images. In such case, the

density for each greyscale level at the different power levels would be averaged across the output from the multiple printers.

In preferred embodiments, there were three Regions A, B, C considered in modeling the equation. However, in alternative embodiments fewer or additional  
5 regions may be considered when determining the effect of a pulse on surrounding pels.

In preferred embodiments, the percentage of the pulse radiation that fell within each Region 0, 1, 2, 3 is determined based on a symmetrical Gaussian pulse equation and model. However, alternative Gaussian equations and additional weights  
10 may be used if the pulse is asymmetrical. For instance, if the pulse radiation pattern is non-symmetrical, then the regions may have to be further subdivided to provide further weights.

In preferred embodiments, a PQE LUT was calculated for a single halftone algorithm in the printer to achieve a desired output halftone curve. In further  
15 embodiments, further PQE LUT tables may be generated for additional halftone algorithms 304 in the printer 306 or for different desired halftone output curves using the same halftone algorithm 304.

In preferred embodiments, the halftone algorithm has 256 levels of greyscale. In alternative embodiments, different halftone algorithms may be used that produce a  
20 different number of greyscale levels.

In preferred embodiments, the PQE LUT included a value for each possible pattern in the data window. In alternative embodiments, the PQU LUT may include the same output value for different print patterns.

In preferred embodiments, there are binary values for each pel. However, in  
25 alternative embodiments there may be more than two values for each pel. In such case, the LUTs 14a, b, c, d would have to provide different output values for the multiple possible pel values.

In preferred embodiment, the control logic is implemented as hardware, e.g., a Field Programmable Gate Array (FPGA), Application Specific Integrated Circuit

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In preferred embodiments, there was one LUT 14a, b, c, d for each different type of print mode. In alternative embodiments, there may be multiple LUT tables for the same print mode and, at the same time, different LUT tables for different print modes.

Examples of print modes, such as print quality enhancement and toner reduction were described. However, additional LUTs may be provided for any different type of filtering operation that may be used to modify the pulse width for a  
10 pel to alter the appearance of the output and/or reduce the toner used.

In preferred embodiments, there is a LUT SRAM 12 and scan SRAM 10. These SRAMs 10 and 12 may be implemented in the same SRAM chip or dispersed throughout multiple SRAM chips. In alternative embodiments, the LUTs 14a, b, c, d may be maintained in a magnetic memory, as opposed to an electronic memory such as an SRAM. Still further, the LUTs 14a, b, c, d may be encoded in hardware logic, such as ASICs, FPGAs, Electronically Erasable Programmable Read-Only-Memory (EEPROM), etc. In alternative embodiments, any type of volatile memory device may be used for the SRAMs 10 and 12. However, in preferred embodiments, the LUTs 14a, b, c, d are all maintained in the same high-speed memory to allow the control logic 4 to switch between LUTs 14a, b, c, d within the pel frequency to maintain printer throughput. In alternative embodiments, the LUTs may be switched at frequencies less or greater than the pel frequency. The LUTs may be programmed using Verilog, which may then be used to generate the hardware.

In preferred embodiments, the window of data considered has a diamond  
 25 shape. However, different shaped windows of pel data may be used with the  
 preferred embodiment dynamic LUT table technique. Further, more or less pels may  
 be included in the window than the thirteen pel bits describe above.

[illegible]

In preferred embodiments, the LUTs provide a single output pel value for the center pel in the window. In alternative embodiments, the LUT may provide multiple substitute modified pulse values for multiple pels in the window.

In preferred embodiments, the laser printer uses the laser to write or discharge the photoconductor voltage in the areas of the image defined as black (or areas where toner is to be placed). The toner color could be black, magenta, cyan, yellow, or other convenient color. This process is known in the industry as "discharge area development" (DAD), where toner adheres only to areas where the photoconductor is discharged. An alternative embodiment where the charges are the opposite of the DAD system is known in the art as "charge area development" (CAD). The CAD process is used in all electrophotography copiers. With CAD, the laser is used to write or discharge the photoconductor voltage in image areas that are white (or areas where toner is not to be placed). Again the toner color could be black, magenta, cyan, yellow, or any other color. Toner adheres only to areas where the photoconductor is charged, which in the CAD process are those areas not impacted by the laser. In the CAD process, the photoconductor latent electrostatic image is the "negative" of the photoconductor latent electrostatic image in the DAD process.

For the CAD process, the toner reduction LUT would consider patterns that are the opposite of those considered for the DAD process where the center pel is black. Thus, the same pulse width and position information provided for the LUTs 14a, b, c, d described above having a black center pel would be provided for white center pels having a surrounding pattern the opposite of the pattern provided for the black center pel. With the CAD process, the sub-pulse width power would charge those pels which are white so that toner will not be attracted to the sub-pel regions charged by the laser.

In summary, preferred embodiments disclose a method, system, and program for generating a table for enhancing the print quality of input raster pel data. An output value is generated for different patterns of pel data. Each output value indicates a sub-pulse width power to charge to a sub-pel region within a pel and

position information indicating the justification of the sub-pel region within the pel.  
A look-up table is formed from the generated output values that enhances print  
quality.

The foregoing description of the preferred embodiments of the invention has  
5 been presented for the purposes of illustration and description. It is not intended to be  
exhaustive or to limit the invention to the precise form disclosed. Many modifications  
and variations are possible in light of the above teaching. It is intended that the scope  
of the invention be limited not by this detailed description, but rather by the claims  
appended hereto. The above specification, examples and data provide a complete  
10 description of the manufacture and use of the composition of the invention. Since  
many embodiments of the invention can be made without departing from the spirit  
and scope of the invention, the invention resides in the claims hereinafter appended.

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\*\*Matlab is a registered trademark of The MathWorks, Inc.

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WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1           1.       A method for generating a table for enhancing the print quality of input  
2 raster pel data, comprising:  
3           generating an output value for different patterns of pel data, wherein each  
4 output value indicates a sub-pulse width power to charge to a sub-pel region within a  
5 pel and position information indicating the justification of the sub-pel region within  
6 the pel; and  
7           forming a look-up table from the generated output values that enhances print  
8 quality.

1           2.       The method of claim 1, wherein toner is attracted to the charged sub-  
2 pel region.

1           3.       The method of claim 1, wherein one output value is generated for a  
2 subject pel depending upon the pattern of pels surrounding the subject pel, wherein  
3 there is one output value for each possible pattern of surrounding pels.

1           4.       The method of claim 3, wherein the subject pel is at the center of the  
2 surrounding pels, and wherein the surrounding pels form a diamond shape.

1           5.       The method of claim 1, wherein the position information is used to  
2 cluster sub-pel regions next to each other in adjacent pels and justify an edge pel  
3 toward a black filled region adjacent to the edge pel.

1           6.       The method of claim 1, wherein the output value for the sub-pulse  
2 width power is generated by adjusting a base sub-pulse width power by weights  
3 indicating the affect of a subject black pel on surrounding pels.

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Country	Year	Population (millions)	Urban population (millions)	Urban population (%)	Population density (per sq km)	Population density (per sq mile)
Algeria	1980	10.0	4.0	40.0	100	260
Algeria	1985	10.5	4.5	42.9	105	272
Algeria	1990	11.0	5.0	45.5	110	284
Algeria	1995	11.5	5.5	47.8	115	296
Algeria	2000	12.0	6.0	50.0	120	309
Algeria	2005	12.5	6.5	52.0	125	321
Algeria	2010	13.0	7.0	53.8	130	334
Algeria	2015	13.5	7.5	55.6	135	347
Algeria	2020	14.0	8.0	57.1	140	359
Algeria	2025	14.5	8.5	58.6	145	372
Algeria	2030	15.0	9.0	60.0	150	385
Algeria	2035	15.5	9.5	61.3	155	397
Algeria	2040	16.0	10.0	62.5	160	409
Algeria	2045	16.5	10.5	63.6	165	422
Algeria	2050	17.0	11.0	64.7	170	434
Algeria	2055	17.5	11.5	65.7	175	447
Algeria	2060	18.0	12.0	66.7	180	459
Algeria	2065	18.5	12.5	67.6	185	472
Algeria	2070	19.0	13.0	68.4	190	485
Algeria	2075	19.5	13.5	69.2	195	497
Algeria	2080	20.0	14.0	70.0	200	509
Algeria	2085	20.5	14.5	70.7	205	522
Algeria	2090	21.0	15.0	71.4	210	534
Algeria	2095	21.5	15.5	72.1	215	547
Algeria	2100	22.0	16.0	72.7	220	559
Algeria	2105	22.5	16.5	73.3	225	572
Algeria	2110	23.0	17.0	73.9	230	585
Algeria	2115	23.5	17.5	74.5	235	597
Algeria	2120	24.0	18.0	75.0	240	609
Algeria	2125	24.5	18.5	75.5	245	622
Algeria	2130	25.0	19.0	76.0	250	634
Algeria	2135	25.5	19.5	76.5	255	647
Algeria	2140	26.0	20.0	76.9	260	659
Algeria	2145	26.5	20.5	77.4	265	672
Algeria	2150	27.0	21.0	77.8	270	685
Algeria	2155	27.5	21.5	78.2	275	697
Algeria	2160	28.0	22.0	78.6	280	709
Algeria	2165	28.5	22.5	78.9	285	722
Algeria	2170	29.0	23.0	79.3	290	734
Algeria	2175	29.5	23.5	79.7	295	747
Algeria	2180	30.0	24.0	80.0	300	759
Algeria	2185	30.5	24.5	80.3	305	772
Algeria	2190	31.0	25.0	80.6	310	785
Algeria	2195	31.5	25.5	81.0	315	797
Algeria	2200	32.0	26.0	81.3	320	809
Algeria	2205	32.5	26.5	81.6	325	822
Algeria	2210	33.0	27.0	81.8	330	834
Algeria	2215	33.5	27.5	82.1	335	847
Algeria	2220	34.0	28.0	82.4	340	859
Algeria	2225	34.5	28.5	82.6	345	872
Algeria	2230	35.0	29.0	82.9	350	885
Algeria	2235	35.5	29.5	83.1	355	897
Algeria	2240	36.0	30.0	83.3	360	909
Algeria	2245	36.5	30.5	83.6	365	922
Algeria	2250					

8        subtracting the white weight from the sub-pulse width power for each white  
9   pel in the region.

9. The method of claim 7, wherein the for each region are calculated by solving an equation that uses the weights for each region to adjust an input array comprising the density at each greyscale level at the base sub-pulse width power to produce a target output array comprising desired density for each greyscale level.

1           10.     The method of claim 9, wherein the adjustment of the input array using  
2     the weights is performed by adding a first function defining the density of the pels in  
3     the regions for each greyscale level after adjusting the subject black pel with the  
4     weights, subtracting a second function defining the density of the pels in the regions  
5     for each greyscale level with no weight affect, adding a third function defining the  
6     density of the black subject pel for each greyscale level after adjusting the center pel  
7     with the weights, and subtracting a fourth function defining the density of the black  
8     subject pel with no weight affect.

1           11.     The method of claim 10, wherein the four functions defining the affect  
2 of the black subject pel in each region are based on a greyscale level corresponding to  
3 a percentage of the subject black pel that affects the region measured at different  
4 power levels.

1           12.     The method of claim 11, wherein the affect of the subject black pel in  
2 each region further comprises:  
3           using the halftone algorithm to determine, for each region, black and white  
4 density arrays indicating a percentage of black and white pels, respectively, in the  
5 region for each greyscale level; and  
6           for each region, multiplying the black and white density arrays and the results  
7 of the functions indicating the affect of the subject black pel on the region to  
8 determine the black and white density effects of the subject black pel on the region.

1           13.     A system for generating a table for enhancing the print quality of input  
2 raster pel data, comprising:  
3           means for generating an output value for different patterns of pel data,  
4 wherein each output value indicates a sub-pulse width power to charge to a sub-pel  
5 region within a pel and position information indicating the justification of the sub-pel  
6 region within the pel; and  
7           means for forming a look-up table from the generated output values that  
8 enhances print quality.

1           14.     The system of claim 13, wherein toner is attracted to the charged sub-  
2 pel region.

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6 means for adding the black weight to the sub-pulse width power for each  
7 black pel in the region; and

	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100	2101	2102	2103	2104	2105	2106	2107	2108	2109	2110	2111	2112	2113	2114	2115	2116	2117	2118	2119	2120	2121	2122	2123	2124	2125	2126	2127	2128	2129	2130	2131	2132	2133	2134	2135	2136	2137	2138	2139	2140	2141	2142	2143	2144	2145	2146	2147	2148	2149	2150	2151	2152	2153	2154	2155	2156	2157	2158	2159	2160	2161	2162	2163	2164	2165	2166	2167	2168	2169	2170	2171	2172	2173	2174	2175	2176	2177	2178	2179	2180	2181	2182	2183	2184	2185	2186	2187	2188	2189	2190	2191	2192	2193	2194	2195	2196	2197	2198	2199	2200	2201	2202	2203	2204	2205	2206	2207	2208	2209	2210	2211	2212	2213	2214	2215	2216	2217	2218	2219	2220	2221	2222	2223	2224	2225	2226	2227	2228	2229	2230	2231	2232	2233	2234	2235	2236	2237	2238	2239	2240	2241	2242	2243	2244	2245	2246	2247	2248	2249	2250	2251	2252	2253	2254	2255	2256	2257	2258	2259	2260	2261	2262	2263	2264	2265	2266	2267	2268	2269	2270	2271	2272	2273	2274	2275	2276	2277	2278	2279	2280	2281	2282	2283	2284	2285	2286	2287	2288	2289	2290	2291	2292	2293	2294	2295	2296	2297	2298	2299	2300	2301	2302	2303	2304	2305	2306	2307	2308	2309	2310	2311	2312	2313	2314	2315	2316	2317	2318	2319	2320	2321	2322	2323	2324	2325	2326	2327	2328	2329	2330	2331	2332	2333	2334	2335	2336	2337	2338	2339	2340	2341	2342	2343	2344	2345	2346	2347	2348	2349	2350	2351	2352	2353	2354	2355	2356	2357	2358	2359	2360	2361	2362	2363	2364	2365	2366	2367	2368	2369	2370	2371	2372	2373	2374	2375	2376	2377	2378	2379	2380	2381	2382	2383	2384	2385	2386	2387	2388	2389	2390	2391	2392	2393	2394	2395	2396	2397	2398	2399	2400	2401	2402	2403	2404	2405	2406	2407	2408	2409	2410	2411	2412	2413	2414	2415	2416	2417	2418	2419	2420	2421	2422	2423	2424	2425	2426	2427	2428	2429	2430	2431	2432	2433	2434	2435	2436	2437	2438	2439	2
--	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	---

8 means for subtracting the white weight from the sub-pulse width power for  
9 each white pel in the region.

1 21. The system of claim 19, further comprising means for calculating the  
2 weights for each region by solving an equation that uses the weights for each region to  
3 adjust an input array comprising the density at each gray scale level at the base sub-  
4 pulse width power to produce a target output array comprising desired density for  
5 each gray scale level.

1 22. The system of claim 21, wherein adjustment of the input array using  
2 the weights is performed by adding a first function defining the density of the pels in  
3 the regions for each gray scale level after adjusting the subject black pel with the  
4 weights, subtracting a second function defining the density of the pels in the regions  
5 for each gray scale level with no weight affect, adding a third function defining the  
6 density of the black subject pel for each gray scale level after adjusting the center pel  
7 with the weights, and subtracting a fourth function defining the density of the black  
8 subject pel with no weight affect.

1 23. The system of claim 22, wherein the four functions defining the affect  
2 of the black subject pel in each region are based on a gray scale level corresponding  
3 to a percentage of the subject black pel that affects the region measured at different  
4 power levels.

1 24. The system of claim 23, wherein the affect of the subject black pel in  
2 each region is determined by:  
3 means for using the halftone algorithm to determine, for each region, black  
4 and white density arrays indicating a percentage of black and white pels, respectively,  
5 in the region for each gray scale level; and

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6 means for multiplying, for each region, the black and white density arrays and  
7 the results of the functions indicating the affect of the subject black pel on the region  
8 to determine the black and white density effects of the subject black pel on the  
9 region.

1 25. An article of manufacture for use in generating a table for enhancing  
2 the print quality of input raster pel data, the article of manufacture comprising at least  
3 one computer program capable of causing a processor to perform:

4 generating an output value for different patterns of pel data, wherein each  
5 output value indicates a sub-pulse width power to charge a sub-pel region within a pel  
6 and position information indicating the justification of the sub-pel region within the  
7 pel; and

8 forming a look-up table from the generated output values that enhances print  
9 quality.

1 26. The article of manufacture of claim 25, wherein toner is attracted to  
2 the charged sub-pel region.

1 27. The article of manufacture of claim 25, wherein one output value is  
2 generated for a subject pel depending upon the pattern of pels surrounding the subject  
3 pel, wherein there is one output value for each possible pattern of surrounding pels.

1 28. The article of manufacture of claim 27, wherein the subject pel is at  
2 the center of the surrounding pels, and wherein the surrounding pels form a diamond  
3 shape.

1 29. The article of manufacture of claim 25, wherein the position  
2 information is used to cluster sub-pel regions next to each other in adjacent pels and  
3 justify an edge pel toward a black filled region adjacent to the edge pel.

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34. The article of manufacture of claim 33, wherein the adjustment of the input array using the weights is performed by adding a first function defining the density of the pels in the regions for each gray scale level after adjusting the subject

[illegible]

1           36.       The article of manufacture of claim 35, wherein the affect of the  
2   subject black pel in each region further comprises:  
3           using the halftone algorithm to determine, for each region, black and white  
4   density arrays indicating a percentage of black and white pels, respectively, in the  
5   region for each gray scale level; and  
6           for each region, multiplying the black and white density arrays and the results  
7   of the functions indicating the affect of the subject black pel on the region to  
8   determine the black and white density effects of the subject black pel on the region.

4            an output value for different patterns of pel data, wherein each output value  
5 includes:

6 (i) a sub-pulse width power to charge to a sub-pel region within a pel,  
7 and  
8 (ii) position information indicating the justification of the sub-pel  
9 region within the pel.

1           38.     The computer-readable transmission medium of claim 37, wherein the  
2 look-up table data structure one output value for a subject pel depending upon the  
3 pattern of pels surrounding the subject pel, wherein there is one output value for each  
4 possible pattern of surrounding pels.

1           38.     The computer-readable transmission medium of claim 37, wherein the  
2 position information is used to cluster sub-pel regions next to each other in adjacent  
3 pels and justify an edge pel toward a black filled region adjacent to the edge pel.

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METHOD, SYSTEM, PROGRAM, AND DATA STRUCTURE  
FOR PRODUCING A LOOK-UP TABLE TO ENHANCE PRINT QUALITY

ABSTRACT

Disclosed is a method, system, and program for generating a table for  
5 enhancing the print quality of input raster pel data. An output value is generated for  
different patterns of pel data. Each output value indicates a sub-pulse width power to  
charge a sub-pel region within a pel and position information indicating the  
justification of the sub-pel region within the pel. A look-up table is formed from the  
generated output values that enhances print quality.

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FIG. 1

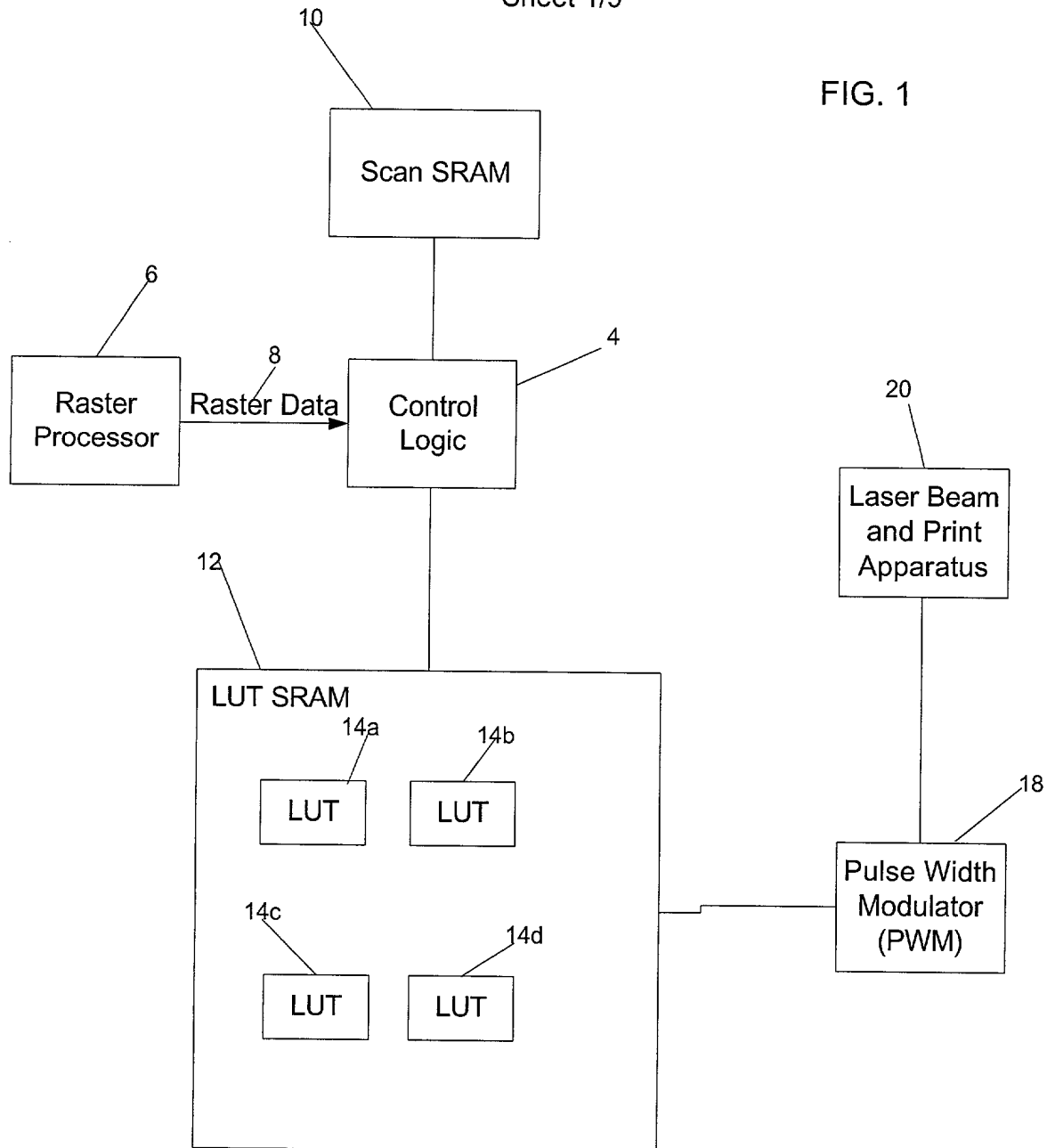


FIG. 2

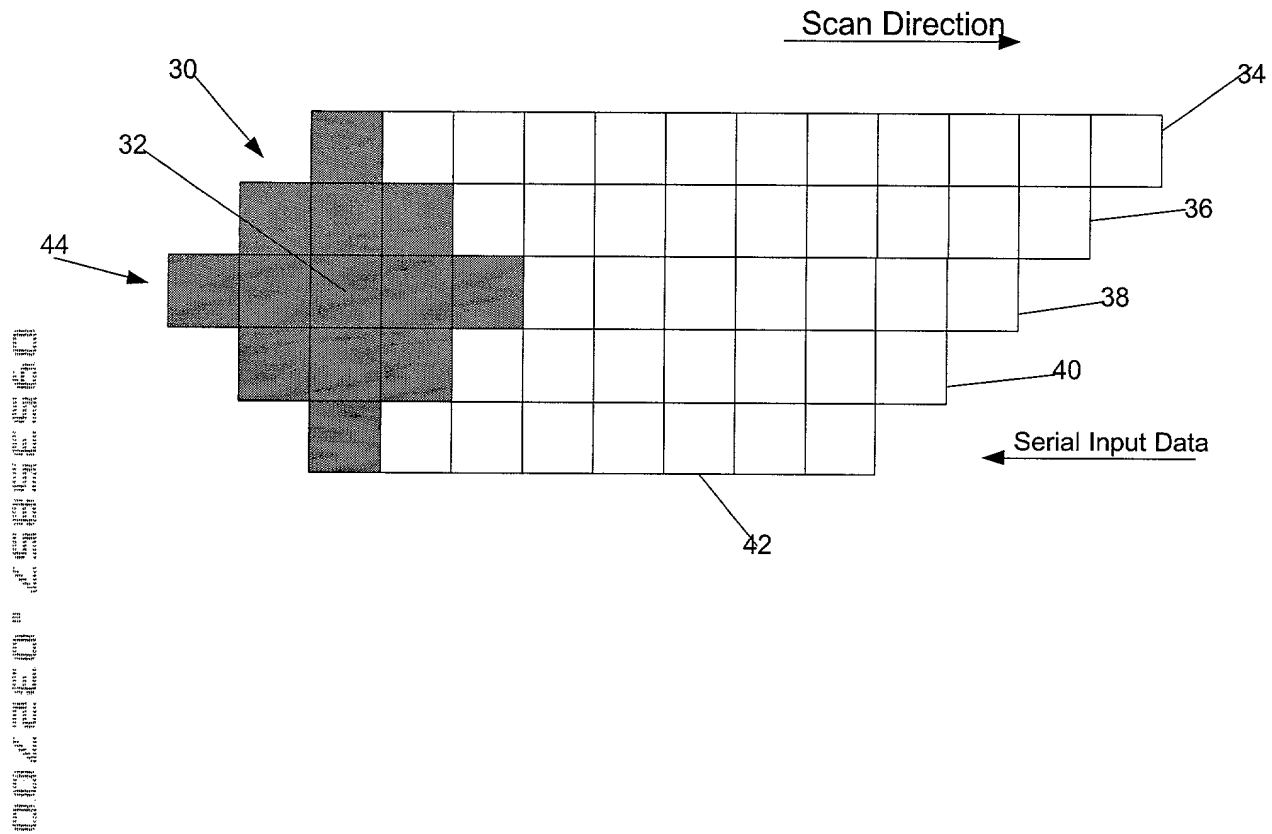


FIG. 3

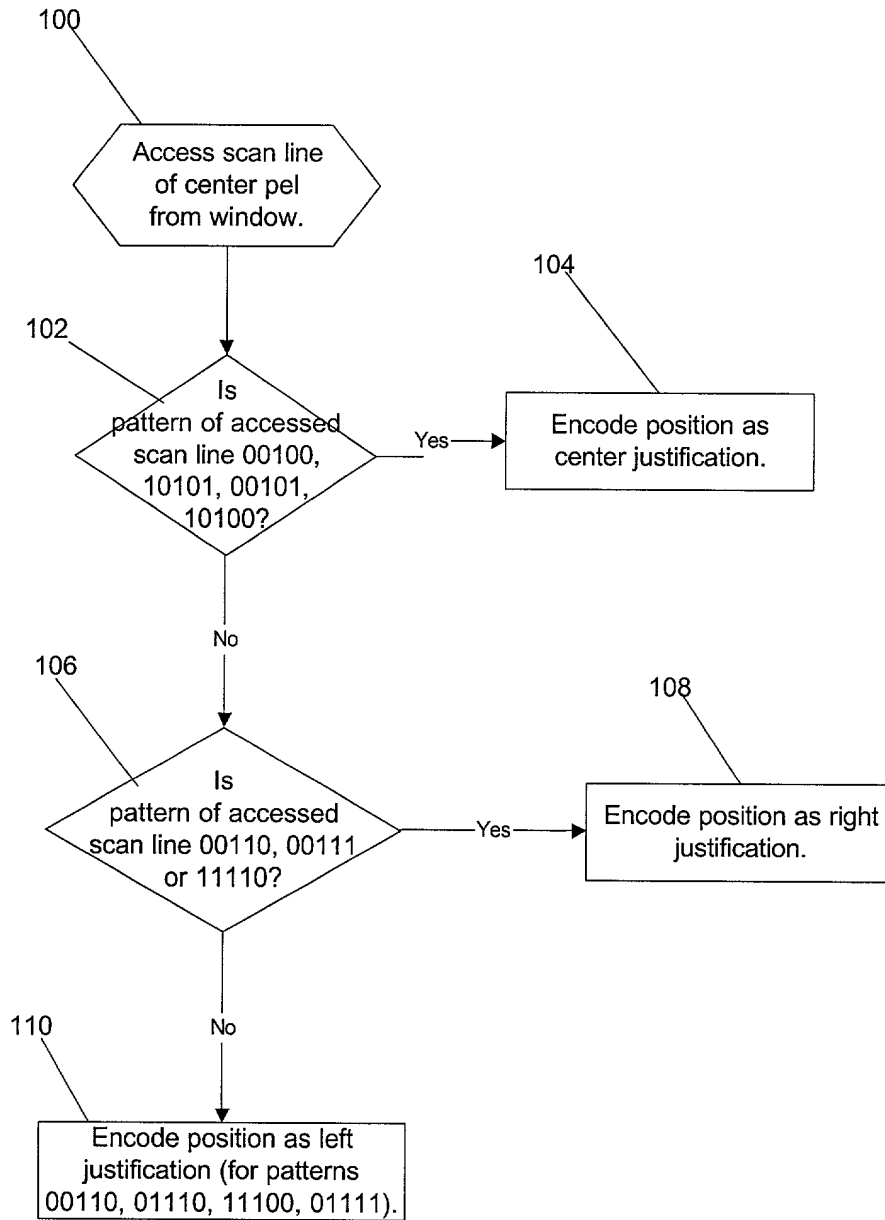




FIG. 4

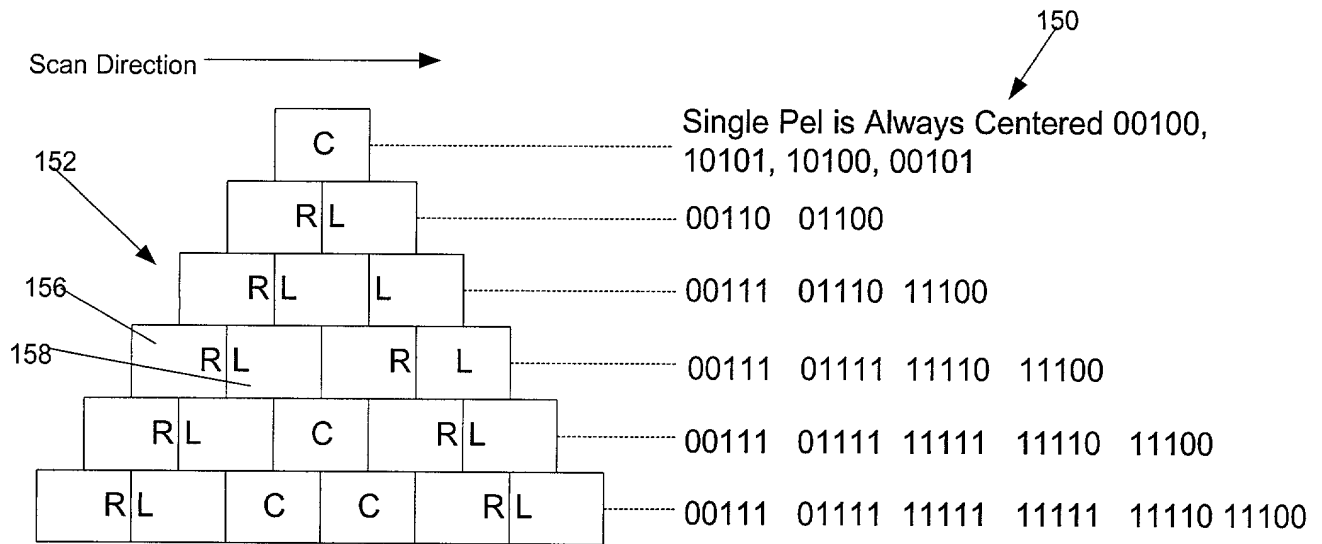
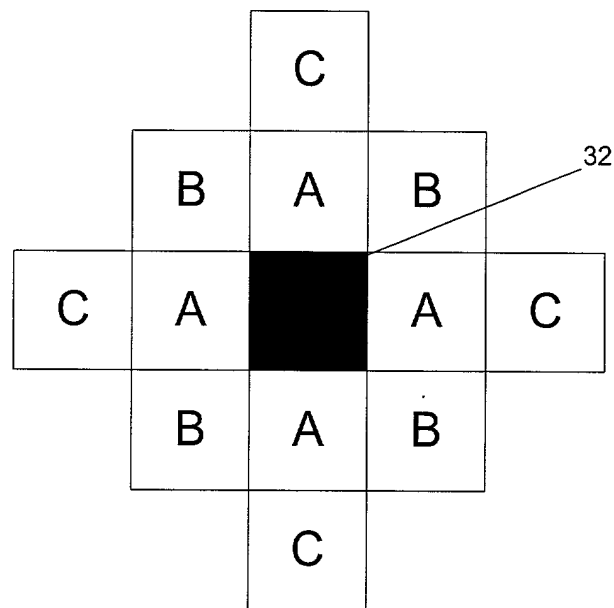


FIG. 5



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FIG. 6

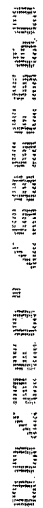


FIG. 7

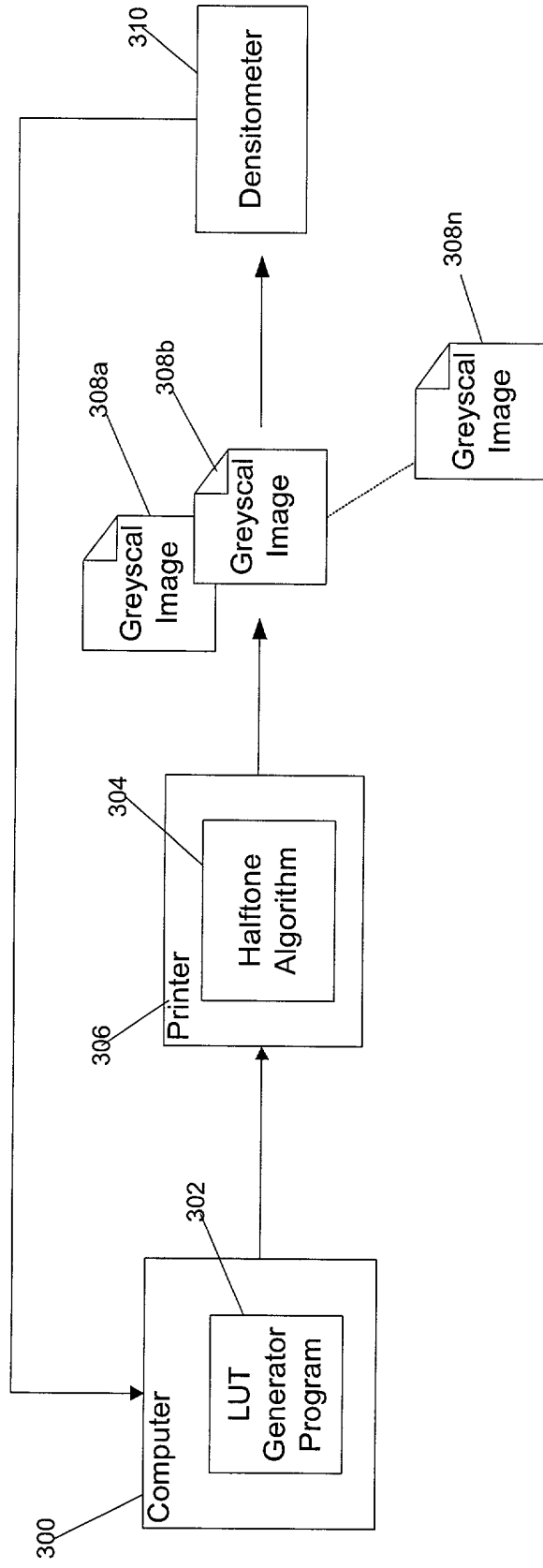
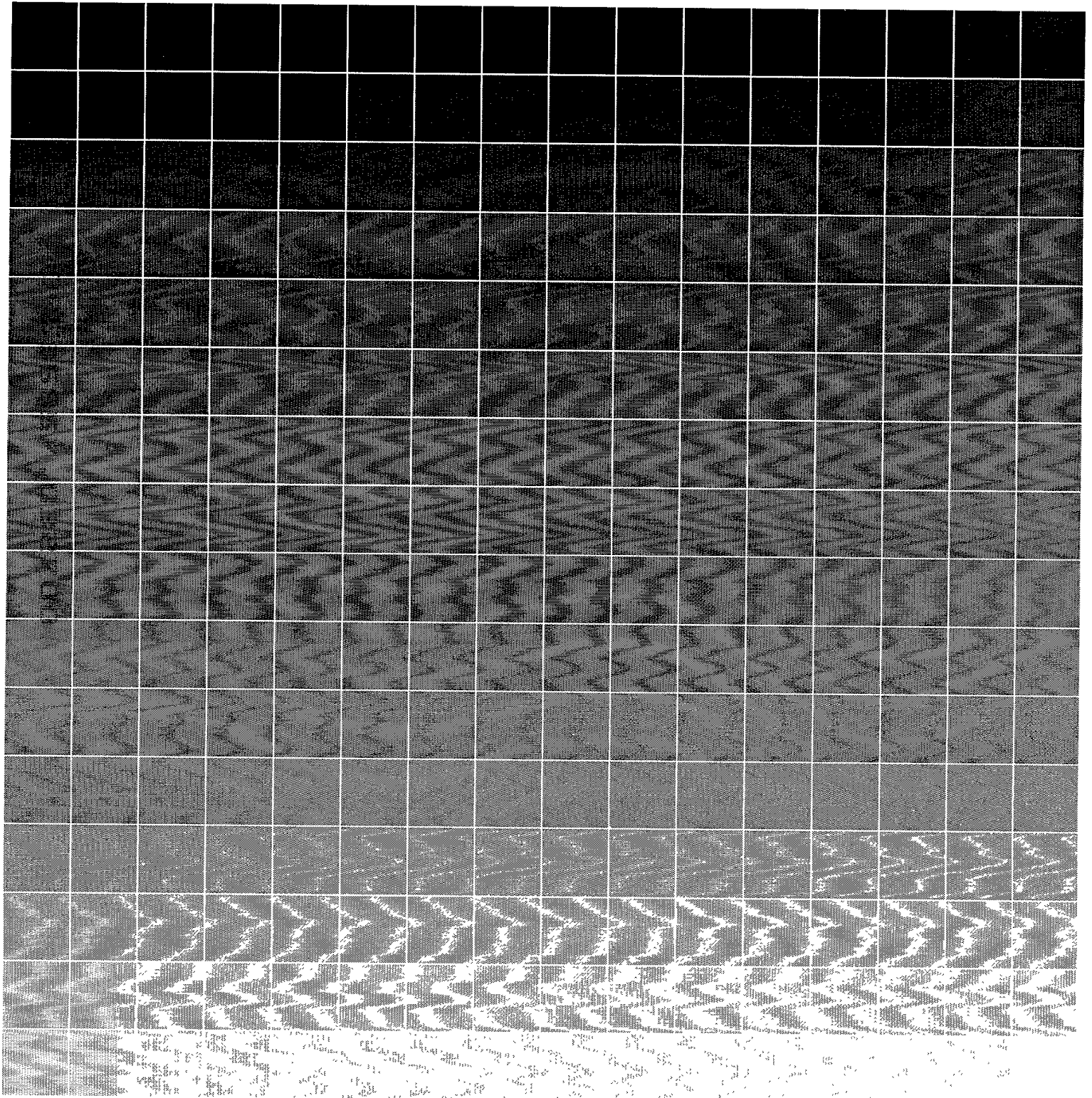


FIG. 8

Prior Art



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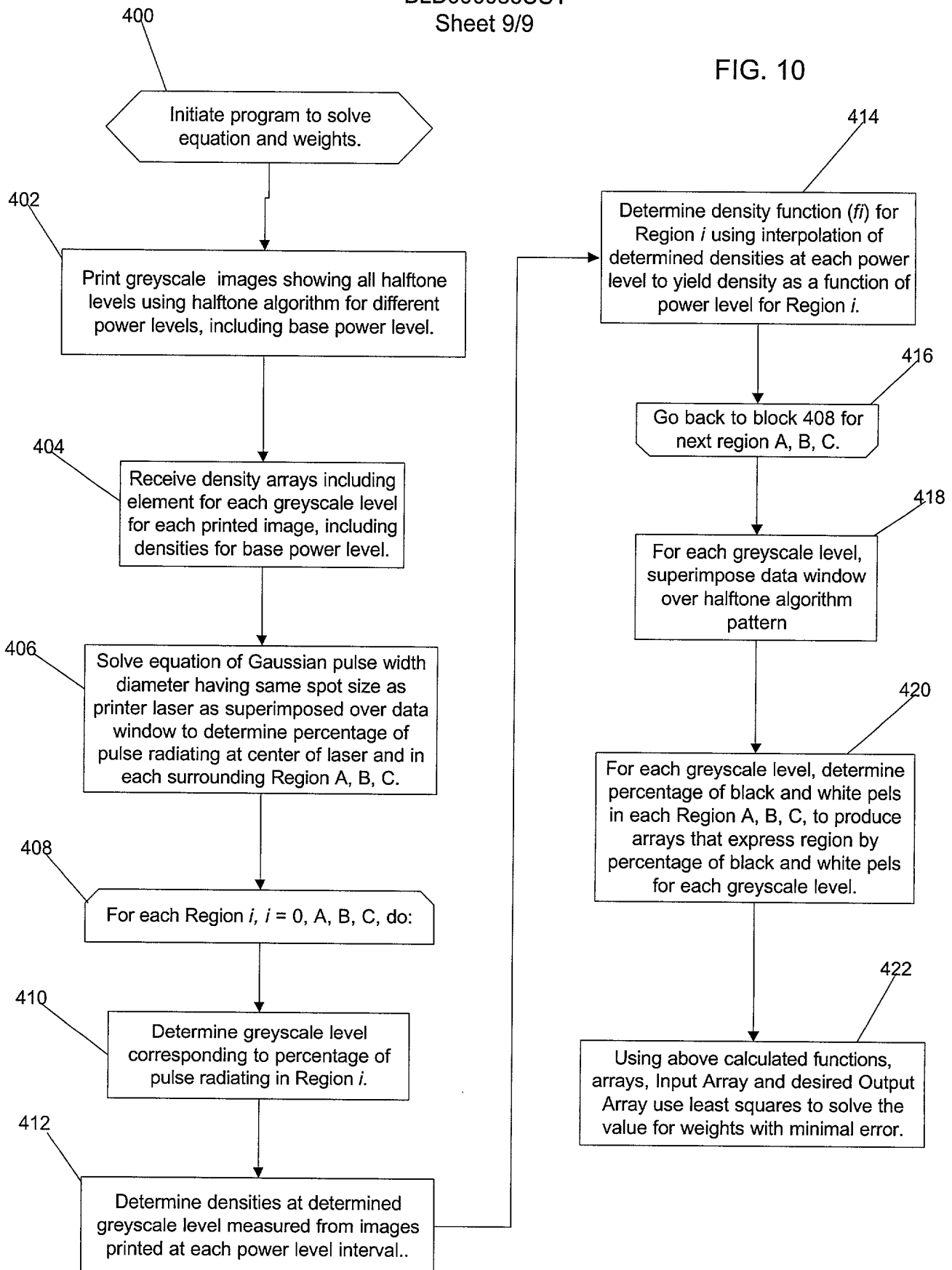
FIG. 9

Output Array =

Input Array +

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Part I} & \left\{ \begin{aligned} & [fA(\text{starting\_value} - W_{AW}) * \text{Array}_{AW} + fA(\text{starting\_value} + W_{AK}) * \text{Array}_{AK} + \\ & fB(\text{starting\_value} - W_{BW}) * \text{Array}_{BW} + fB(\text{starting\_value} + W_{BK}) * \text{Array}_{BK} + \\ & fC(\text{starting\_value} - W_{CW}) * \text{Array}_{CW} + fC(\text{starting\_value} + W_{CK}) * \text{Array}_{CK}] - \end{aligned} \right. \\
 \text{Part II} & \left\{ [fA(\text{starting\_value}) * \text{Array}_{AK} + fB(\text{starting\_value}) * \text{Array}_{BK} + fC(\text{starting\_value}) * \text{Array}_{CK}] + \right. \\
 \text{Part III} & \left\{ [f0(\text{starting\_value} + W_{AK} + W_{BK} + W_{CK} - W_{AW} - W_{BW} - W_{CW}) - f0(\text{starting\_value})] \right.
 \end{aligned}$$

FIG. 10



DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR PATENT APPLICATION

DOCKET:  
BLD990036US1

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name;

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

METHOD, SYSTEM, PROGRAM, AND DATA STRUCTURE FOR PRODUCING A LOOK-UP TABLE TO ENHANCE PRINT QUALITY

the specification of which (check one)

X has attorney docket no. BLD990036US1  
\_\_\_\_\_ was filed on \_\_\_\_\_  
as Application Serial No. \_\_\_\_\_  
and was amended on \_\_\_\_\_ (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119(a)-(d) or Section 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or Section 365(a) of any PCT International application which designated at least one country other than the United States, listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate or PCT International application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

Prior Foreign Application(s)

Priority Claimed

None \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
(Number) (Country) (Day/Month/Year Filed)

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 120 of any United States application(s) or Section 365(c) of any PCT International application designating the United States, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, Section 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56, which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

None \_\_\_\_\_  
(Application Serial No.) (Filing Date) (Status) (patented, pending, abandoned)

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

MAR 27 '00 16:11

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## DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR PATENT APPLICATION

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BLD990036US1

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